

No. XVIII.—NOTES ON A COLLECTION OF SNAKES  
FROM MATHERAN.

A collection of snakes made by Captain McPherson, I. M. S., at Matheran (2,500 feet) and presented to our Society, contains the following species:—

UROPELTIDÆ.

*Silybura macrolepis.*

One specimen of this species which is peculiar to the Western Ghats. The costals are 15 at a point two head-lengths behind the head, 15 in midbody, and 15 at a point two head-lengths before the vent. The ventrals and subcaudals 129+9. The ventrals are not twice the breadth of the last row as stated by Boulenger, the last row being two-thirds as broad as the ventrals.

COLUBRIDÆ.

*Tropidonotus piscator.*

Two small specimens, olivaceous chequered with small spots. (Variety *punctatus*, Wall).

*Lycodon aulicus.*

Four specimens, all variety *typica*. The ventrals and subcaudals of three are 206+66, 207+? (tail imperfect), and 208+61 (the first 4 entire).

*Lycodon travancoricus.*

Four specimens, all ♂. The ventrals and subcaudals are 192+?, 20272, 198+?, and 196+75. The anal is entire in all. Three of these are quite typical in colouration, but the fourth is peculiar in that it appears to be uniform dark purplish brown. With the aid of a lens an indication of the normal yellow cross bar can be very dimly discerned. One specimen had a frog in the stomach.

*Macropisthodon plumbicolor.*

Three specimens, one quite young. The costals in all are in 25 rows at midbody, and 19 at a point two head-lengths before the anus. Two head-lengths behind the head they are 23 in two specimens, 25 in the third. The ventrals and subcaudals are 152+45, 163+40, and 155+43. In one nearly adult specimen the black bands across the body, and the yellow chevron edged with black on the nape were unusually conspicuous for a specimen of this growth

*Zamenis mucosus.*

One half-grown specimen, light in colour, abundantly variegated with black in the hinder part.

*Coluber helena.*

Two examples. One is an enormous specimen of its kind, measuring 4 feet 11 inches. The costals are 23 two head-lengths behind the head, 25 in midbody, and 19 two head-lengths before the anus. The ventrals and subcaudals are 142+79, and 228+86. I notice that in all specimens from the Hills of Western Indian Travancore to Western Ghats the bands on the anterior part of the body are connected by festoons of black spots on the ventrals.

These festoons are not seen in Himalayan examples, nor did I find them in a specimen recently received from Udaipur.

*Deudrelaphis tristis.*

Two specimens of this rather uncommon snake which, however, has been previously recorded from Matheran. The head and forebody only of one specimen is sent. The ventrals and subcaudals of the perfect example are 182 + 129, and the anal divided.

*Dryophis mycterizans.*

Three examples all young.

*Dipsadomorphus forsteni.*

One fairly large adult. The costals are 25 two head-lengths behind the head, 27 in midbody, and 17 becoming 15 at a point, two head-lengths before the anus. The body is too damaged to count the ventrals. The subcaudals are 106. The supralabials are ten, and the 4th, 5th and 6th touch the eye. There are three series of black spots which are broader than long, the median alternating with the lateral series. These markings are extremely like those in the species *quincunciatus* I recently described from Assam.

Captain McPherson says he also collected 3 kraits *B. caeruleus*, and 2 pit vipers *Lachesis gramineus*.

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ALMORA, 25th April 1909.

No. XIX.—NOTES ON A COLLECTION OF SNAKES  
MADE IN BAXA DOOARS.

Last year, thanks to the kindness of Captain K. L. W. Mackenzie, I acquired a collection of snakes made by him at Baxa Dooars (1,200 to 1,500 ft.) which includes the following species :—

TYPHLOPIDÆ.

*Typhlops diardi.*

One adult specimen. The costal rows in midbody are 26.

COLUBRIDÆ.

*Polyodontophis collaris.*

One typical adult.

*Tropidonotus piscator.*

One specimen of variety *quincunciatus* with very large spots

*Tropidonotus subminiatus.*

One adult, typical in every way.

*Tropidonotus himalayanus.*

One adult.

*Pseudoxenodon macrops.*

Two specimens.

*Lycodon aulicus.*

One example of variety D of Boulenger's Catalogue (I, p. 353). The anterior labials are mottled with brown.